Government of Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan Social Services

1988-89

90-03462/

Foreword

Annual Report 1988-89

This Annual Report summarizes the performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989.

The Report is divided into four basic sections:

- introductory and organizational information
- public programs and services
- internal support services
- fiscal statement.

Copies of this Report are available from

Saskatchewan Social Services
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

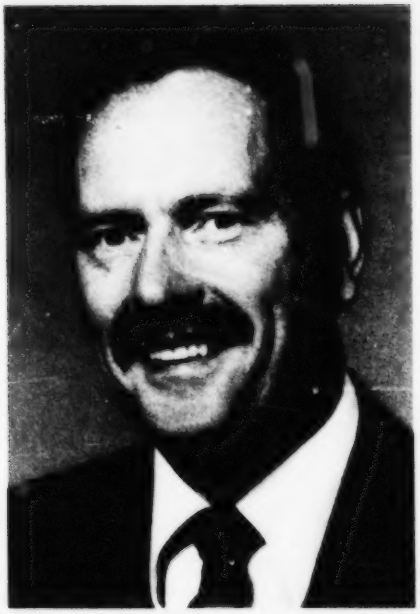
Honourable Sylvia Fedoruk
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

May it please your Honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989.

Bill Neudorf
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan



Deputy Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Bill Neudorf
Minister of Social Services
Regina, Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1989.

J. Moore.
Judy Moore
Deputy Minister
of Social Services

Mission

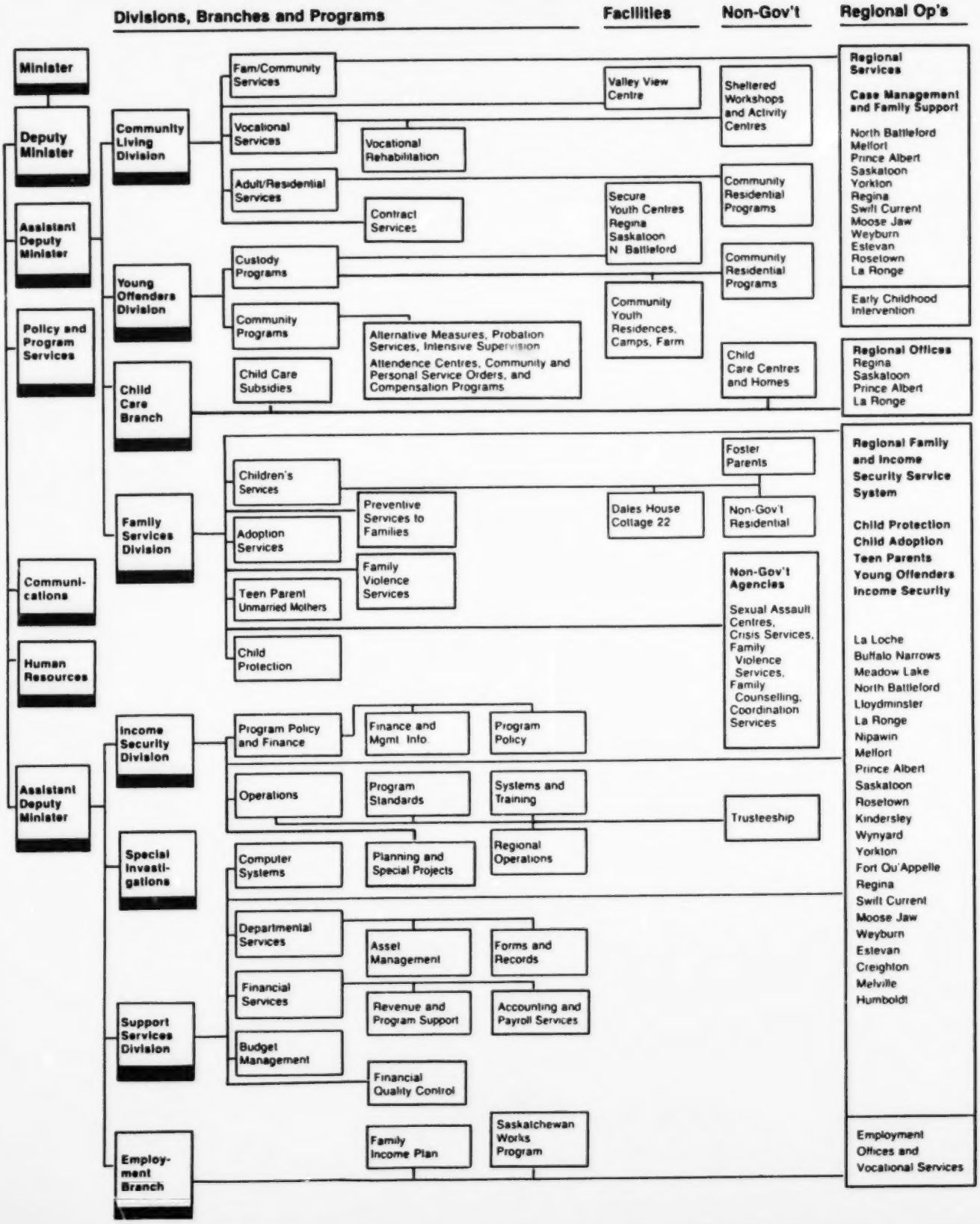
The mission of Saskatchewan Social Services is to foster independence of people in need through competent and caring service.

Mandate

The mandate of Saskatchewan Social Services is to:

- provide financial assistance and related support services to, and promote the self-reliance of, people who cannot maintain their independence;
- protect children against abuse, neglect, and abandonment;
- provide substitute care for children, youth, and families in need;
- provide residential, community, custodial, and Court related services for youth in conflict with the law; and,
- promote independent living for persons with mental or physical disabilities.

Organization



Family Services

The Family Services Division provides child protection services, single parent support services, and children in care and adoption services. These services primarily are delivered through a network of regional offices.

In addition, the Division provides assistance to victims of family violence. A variety of family counselling and support services are provided through a number of non-governmental organizations funded by the Department.

Highlights 1988-89

The Child and Family Services Act and The Adoption Act were introduced.

A standardized foster care training program was developed with the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association to restructure and strengthen the foster care program. Three-quarters of the foster parents in the province and half of the Family Services Division's staff participated in the 40-hour training program.

To achieve a better match between foster children and foster parents, a new home classification process was introduced.

A skill development fee was introduced during the year that is in addition to the basic maintenance payment, to acknowledge existing skill levels of foster parents.

Native foster home recruitment projects were undertaken in three communities.

Child abuse investigation protocols were implemented across the province.

A range of "openness-in-adoption" procedures, for consideration by both birth and adoptive parents, was introduced through a project in Saskatoon.

CHILD PROTECTION

Reports of children needing protection, as prescribed by The Family Services Act were investigated. Cases of child assault by a family member required joint involvement with the police.

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by child protection workers located in regional offices across Saskatchewan. In most cases, children in need of protection remained in or could return to their family settings. Services were also provided to parents declaring their own need for assistance with serious parenting problems. Voluntary services were emphasized.

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by non-governmental agencies. Rural coverage was provided by Department staff and the R.C.M.P.

The Division was involved with the various police services and prosecutors in implementing a coordinated service approach for joint child protection and criminal investigations.

A number of in-home support services were available to help families resolve problems: home-maker services, parent aide, parent education or life skills training, emergency babysitting, recreation fees, and assessment, counselling or therapy were provided by the Division or non-governmental agencies.

All initial involvements with families are tabulated annually on the basis of the calendar year. Statistics for 1988 were:

Physical neglect	288
Physical abuse	182
Sexual abuse	197
Emotional abuse	19
Parent/child conflict	275
Family support services	603

In addition, 947 cases were investigated resulting in short-term services being provided, clients being referred elsewhere for service, or a conclusion that children in the families involved were not in need of protection or referral. There were 2,603 families receiving services at March 31, 1989.

In cases where children required out of home placement and the parent(s) agreed, the Division sought voluntary agreements rather than initiating court proceedings. At fiscal year end, there were 446 contractual agreements for temporary child care between the Minister of Social Services and parents. The children were usually placed in foster homes while problems were resolved.

CHILDREN IN CARE

The Division provided a range of alternative care resources for children and youth away from their families.

Seventy per cent of children and youth in the care of the Minister were placed in foster homes. Of the remainder, some lived independently or with relatives, while others received service through specialized treatment homes, group homes, and residential treatment centres. These services were provided through a combination of departmentally operated facilities or through direct funding, grants, or fee-for-service agreements with non-governmental organizations. The intensity of service varied with the needs of the children.

Children in Care by Authority of The Family Services Act: March 31, 1989

Apprehended: matter before the court	637
Section 8: voluntary agreement with parents for care	446
Section 9: agreement for service, 16 and 17 year olds	111
Temporary Wards: committed to care for one year or less	215
Permanent Wards: committed to care until age of majority	805
Section 44: service for previous wards 18 to 21 years so that education might continue	47
Total	**2,261**

There was a modest decrease in the number of children in care during the year. There were 2,261 in care at March 31, 1989, compared with 2,281 a year earlier.

Foster parents and other care givers were responsible for the care of children. The Minister of Social Services remained legal guardian and retained responsibility for planning and financial support.

As of March 31, 1989 there were 737 foster homes in Saskatchewan.

A three-level system for classifying foster homes was introduced. A standardized training package for foster parents at the first level was jointly developed and delivered by the Department and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association.

The Parent Therapist Program, which had been operating in Saskatoon, was expanded to Regina.

ADOPTION

Where adoption was the plan of choice for children, a variety of adoption services were provided to facilitate permanency planning for children and support for birth parents. Adult adoptees were assisted, through information or search, to achieve a satisfactory understanding of their birth family and/or the circumstances leading to their adoption.

A variety of adoption services were delivered to meet individual child and family needs.

Infant Ward Adoptions

Forty-one infants were placed in adoption homes during the year.

Special Adoption

Extra effort was extended through the Special Adoptions Program to locate parents for children who might otherwise be delayed or overlooked for adoption. The majority of children who were to be adopted were school age, of minority race, or had medical, physical, or emotional disabilities. Sixty-three children with special needs were placed during the year.

Assisted Adoption

Children who are wards of the Minister and who are at risk of not being adopted may qualify for maintenance assistance, special services, and extended health coverage when they are adopted into a family. Agreements for 15 such children were approved during the year.

International Adoption

Twenty-six international adoption applications were active at year end. Four children were placed from Korea.

Step-Parent Adoption

The Division handled 285 step-parent adoptions during the year.

Independent and Third-party Adoptions

A total of 88 independent and third-party adoptions were arranged.

Agency Adoption

Christian Counselling Services of Saskatoon placed 28 infants as open adoptions during 1988-89.

Post Adoption Services

Post adoption services were provided to adoptive parents, adult adoptees, and birth parents.

Number of Adoptions: 1988-89

Infant	41
Special adoptions: infant	21
other	42
Independent and third party	88
Agency	28
Step-parent	285

Independent and third party, and Step-parent, reflect orders issued by the Court

Number of Adoption Applications: at March 31, 1989

Status	Infant	Special Needs	Total
Waiting list	649	176	825
Under study	37	105	142
Approved for placement	92	50	142
Totals	**778**	**331**	**1,109**

Post Adoption Service Requests

Non-identifying information	494
Search and contact: Adult adoptees	124
Birth family	197

Post Adoption Searches Completed

Reunions completed (mutual request)	100
Birth parent declined contact	25
Requests withdrawn	64
Independent search completed	3
Birth parent deceased	1
Unable to locate birth parent	7
Total	**200**

NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES

In November, 1988, the Non-governmental Services Branch was transferred to the Community Living Division and renamed the Contract Services Branch. This Branch managed all third-party grants; however, the Family Services Division retained program responsibility for a range of grant-funded non-governmental organizations contracted to provide services which supplement or complement the Division's mandate.

Crisis Intervention

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service, the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative, and Mobile Crisis Services, Regina.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line, and a sexual assault worker with the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Family Violence Services

Services for victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Crisis Centre in Kindersley, the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort, South West Crisis Services in Swift Current, and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton. Two support groups for battered women, one sponsored by the Regina Family Service Bureau, and the other by the Saskatoon Family Service Bureau, received funding from the Department.

Family violence shelter services for battered women and their children were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Regina Native Women's Association (Residential Resource Centre), Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert, the Battlefords Interval House in North Battleford, and Shelwin House, Yorkton Women in Need Inc.

Additional crisis accommodation for battered women and children was provided by safe shelter programs in Regina, operated by the YWCA Isabel Johnson Centre; in LaRonge, operated by the LaRonge Native Women's Organization Inc.; and by a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis Intervention Centre.

A new safe shelter opened in March 1989 in Swift Current, operated by South West Crisis Services.

Counselling and Family Supports

Personal counselling and support services were provided by a number of native family service organizations including the Metis Society of Saskatoon, the Regina Native Women's Association (Community Centre), the Lestock Women's Centre, the Native Co-ordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows Native Women, the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in LaLoche, the LaRonge Native Women's Organization (Family Crisis Centre), Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide), the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians Riel Local of Regina (Parent Aide), and the Peyakowak (They Are Alone) Committee Inc. of Regina.

Family support was provided by family workers in native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Regina, LaRonge, and Carlyle.

Counselling and family services were provided by the Family Service Bureau in Saskatoon and

Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina, Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, and the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw.

Other counselling services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project, Regina; the SCEP Centre Society, Regina; the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children; the Friendship Inn, Saskatoon; the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Program (Family Counselling Program); the Merici Centre, Regina; and Christian Counselling Services, Saskatoon.

A crisis nursery program was provided by the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children.

Prevention

Services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers organizations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan, and Lloydminster.

Youth activity services were provided by the John Howard Society organizations in Prince Albert and Moose Jaw. Responsibility for these two organizations will be transferred to the Young Offenders Division on April 1, 1989.

Local and Provincial Co-ordination

Local service co-ordination was provided by the SMILE Services Inc.(Society for Maintaining and Improving Life in Estevan) in Estevan.

The Saskatchewan Human Services Association and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association, each provided provincial co-ordination services to their members.

Trusteeship

Trusteeship Services were transferred to the Income Security Division in 1988-89.

Regional Services

Single Parent Support Services

The Department provided information, referral, counselling, and other pre- and post-natal support services to young, prospective and single parents, to foster informed decisions about the future of children. Involvement of fathers and grandparents was encouraged.

Relinquishment services, through Court or document committals, were provided to parents who decided to place their children for adoption. The Department then made arrangements for adoption placement for these children. Services were provided to young parents who decided to parent their children. These included individual counselling; group meetings to teach specific parenting skills regarding the developmental needs of infants; and counselling with respect to budgets, education, and employment. Where the support of extended families was lacking, teen parents were often matched with volunteers for support. The volunteer service was run by the five Family Service Bureaux in Saskatoon, Regina, and Moose Jaw.

Child Protection

Reports of child neglect, abuse, or abandonment were investigated by regional child protection workers. Workers provided farnily assessment, counselling, referral, parent aide, home making, or transportation services to reduce risk to children and prevent their coming into care.

Children in Care

Children and youth who could not be cared for in their families were taken into the Minister's care and placed in foster homes. The Department retained financial responsibility and legal guardianship. Foster parents provided day-to-day care.

Children's services workers provided counselling, referral, and other support services for both children and foster parents. Emphasis was on foster parent training.

For children with special needs, such as physical or mental disabilities or emotional disturbances, the Department provided specialized services and facilitated care through alternative department or community-based residential resources.

Adoption

Parents seeking to place children for adoption could receive assistance with decision making and with completing the necessary documents.

Persons seeking to adopt children were assessed through an adoption study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting an adopted child.

Youth

In addition to protection and residential supports for parents and teens in conflict, support was provided regionally to unmarried, teen parents. Extended educational services were provided to youth who had been wards of the Minister.

Regional services for young offenders included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation, community alternatives, intensive supervision, attendance centres, and both open and secure custody.

Community Living

Regional services were available for persons with mental or physical handicaps, depending on personal needs. These services helped adults or children and their parents adjust to disabilities, minimize the affects of handicapping conditions, and make informed decisions about educational, residential, and lifestyle needs.

The Department also assisted community-based, non-governmental service agencies with program design, implementation, and management.

Income Support

People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health, or inability to secure employment, did not have sufficient funds to meet basic needs, could apply for financial assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Assistance was provided to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing, and other necessities. In some cases, clients qualified for supplementary health services provided through the Department of Health. Other counselling and referral services were provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

Regional offices were responsible for determining eligibility and administering financial assistance to clients. Income security services were delivered within the cities of Prince Albert and Moose Jaw by local social services offices operated by these communities.

Training, Education and Employment

In addition to income support, vocational service workers provided training, educational, and employment support services. Social assistance clients who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training, and educational and work opportunities to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Regional offices of the Saskatchewan Works program worked with employers in the non-governmental, municipal, and business sectors to create job opportunities for employable clients.

Emergency Services

In the event of a large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people, the Department's regional offices would have been asked to respond with assistance which, under such circumstances, would have included support for food, clothing, lodging, or other personal services. The Department co-operates with emergency measures organizations toward this end.

Young Offenders

The introduction to Saskatchewan in 1984 of the Young Offenders Act (Canada) had a major impact on the social services system as it pertained to youth. The most dramatic effect was emphasis placed on the development of services specifically oriented to the 12-17 year old young offender.

The Act established that young persons who committed offences were to be held accountable and responsible for their actions, and society had the right to be protected. It recognized that young persons have rights and freedoms, including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in the Canadian Bill of Rights. The Young Offenders Act (Canada) acknowledged that young persons have the right of the least possible interference with personal freedom, consistent with the protection of society. It permitted young offenders to be dealt with through alternatives to court proceedings and institutional confinement, as a means of being accountable. It also recognized that parents were responsible for the care and supervision of their children.

THE YOUTH MODEL

Supporting the Declaration of Principle in the Young Offenders Act (Canada), Saskatchewan Social Services strives to balance the protection of society with the special needs of young persons. The Youth Model, adopted by the Young Offenders Program Division, governs the development and implementation of innovative responses. Young people are viewed as youth, not adults. Programs are designed to recognize the need for youth to bear responsibility for their actions and to provide the guidance and assistance required by them. A continuum of services fosters normal youth development

through counselling, education, training, and work experience, together with opportunities to enhance personal and cultural identity. The continuing responsibility and participation of parents, families, and communities is reinforced by the Youth Model and reflected in the services for youth in conflict with the law.

ALTERNATIVE MEASURES

Alternative measures refers to procedures whereby individuals who would otherwise proceed to trial were dealt with through community-based alternatives delivered by non-government organizations. This is a non-criminal procedure providing for the referral of offenders who are accused of committing certain categories of offences to a specifically designated program, prior to and in place of adjudication.

While this is an alternative to judicial proceeding, it is a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable, whereby voluntary settlement of an alleged offence was developed involving the victim and the community. The Program was fully implemented this year and offered throughout the province. There were over 1,200 referrals.

JUDICIAL INTERIM RELEASE

The Young Offenders Act (Canada) provides that a Youth Court Judge or Justice could release a young person prior to disposition rather than remanding that offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release.

Workers provided assessments to the Court on young offenders identifying possible responses for release, background information on the offender, and ability of individuals willing to supervise and care for youth as "responsible" adults. When considered necessary, intensive supervision for offenders was provided by the Division in Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina. There were 193 youth supervised under this program in 1988-89, and 342 assessment reports prepared.

COMMUNITY ALTERNATIVE SERVICES

The Community Alternative Services Program provides the Court with the alternative of sentencing an offender to a specific community program rather than to a period of custody or probation. The Program gives the victim of an offence an opportunity to participate in the proceedings to the extent desirable, with a view to recovering where possible an appropriate compensation for illegal actions against a person or property. The Program also provides compensation through community service to society as a whole, where there is no identifiable victim. The Program consists of Community Service Orders, Personal Service Orders and Compensation Orders. In 1988-89, there were approximately 1,330 Community Service Orders referred to the program and over $62,700 repaid through Compensation Orders.

PROBATION SERVICES

The duties of youth workers under the Act also included supervision of offenders bound by probation orders, preparation and presentation to the Court of pre-disposition and progress reports, attendance in Court to provide information and advice, and such other duties as the Provincial Director required.

This was the major responsibility of the community component of the Division and was provided to all Courts and communities through the regional service delivery system. The year end caseload in the probation program was 1,490 youth in 1988-89.

INTENSIVE SUPERVISION

The Intensive Supervision Program was designed as a specific community-based alternative to detaining youth in custody. Specialized youth workers in Regina, Saskatoon, and Prince Albert as well as contracted community service providers in other parts of the province, provided increased levels of supervision to youth, who would otherwise have been in custody.

The Program was available to youth (as an option to custody) while awaiting a hearing, at the time of sentencing, on leave from a custody facility, and when released earlier from custody by the Court. In 1988-89, there were 165 referrals to the Intensive Supervision Program.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance programs refers to a disposition within probation supervision whereby youth may be required to attend a specific facility or program tailored to their needs. Generally, such attendance would focus on counselling, life skills development, and specific kinds of training, information, and/or education.

In 1988-89, two Attendance Programs operated in Saskatchewan. Rainbow Youth Centre in Regina accepted 44 referrals, and the Family Service Bureau Attendance Program, Saskatoon, accepted 57 referrals. The Family Service Bureau Program refocussed its services to provide additional one-to-one supervision using volunteers.

OPEN CUSTODY

Open Custody is defined in the Young Offenders Act (Canada) as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility". This program required young persons to live in a supervised "away from home" environment (the custody component).

In Open Custody, youth were also involved in regular school programs, community recreation programs, and regular employment (the open component). Open custody was provided by Dales House in Regina; Kilburn Hall and Yarrow Youth Farm in Saskatoon; the Community Youth Residences in North Battleford and Creighton; Department Youth Camps in Kenosee and Prince Albert; and by the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre at Green Lake, Oskietawin Group Home in Sandy Bay, and the Salvation Army Youth Resource Centre in Regina (non-governmental group homes) during the year under review.

In 1988-89, the average daily count of young persons in open custody was 132, including Community Homes open custody placements.

COMMUNITY HOMES

Community Homes refers to a network of twenty-nine private homes, situated in various locations: urban centres, farms, small towns, Indian reserves, and the far north. These bed spaces complement the more traditional open custody bed spaces, and also provide judicial interim release services to youth who would otherwise be detained in police cells or a secure facility pending a court appearance.

Community Homes give youth workers the option of placing a young person in a resource which is in their area and which best suits that young person's needs. Native operators of community homes were actively recruited, with a greater percentage in the northern part of the province.

The entire Young Offenders system today is better able to relate to native youth in conflict with the law.

SECURE CUSTODY

Under the terms of the Young Offenders Act (Canada), secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province, for the secure containment or restraint of young persons". Secure custody facilities are designed to contain the young person in a supportive, developmental environment where control can be achieved by close supervision and/or by physical control within a secure facility.

Police detention and court remand spaces were developed as a component of each secure custody facility. Detention and remand spaces are required for holding certain offenders until a first court appearance, or until court adjudication and sentencing is complete.

During the year, the Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina, Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon, and the North Battleford Youth Centre provided secure custody and detention services for offenders. In 1988-89, the average daily count of young persons in secure custody was 130, and the average daily count in detention was 35 youths.

Community Living

The Community Living Division provided and facilitated community-based services for persons who were physically or mentally disabled. This was done to ensure that their physical, emotional, and social needs were met, and to assist many to live and function as independently as possible within their own communities.

SOCIAL WORK AND COMMUNITY THERAPY

The Division provided case management, individual program planning, staff training, general consultation, and community-board support services across Saskatchewan. Social workers handled 2,994 individual client cases and 157 family cases, and had 259 private-service home operators and 26 private residential service providers on caseloads.

FAMILY SUPPORT

Family support services helped parents and their children through the initial adjustment to disabilities; to diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning which were caused by a disability; to assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model for pre-school and school-aged children; and, to assist families in making appropriate planning decisions about educational, housing, and life-style issues at appropriate times.

Respite services were provided by resource homes in Saskatoon and Regina. Families who did not have access to these homes gained access to respite services through the Outreach Program.

The Division made limited use of the preventive services provision of The Family Services Act to provide services in the parental homes of children with severe disabilities, particularly where there was a possibility of the children coming into care.

EARLY CHILDHOOD INTERVENTION

The Early Childhood Intervention Program provided home-based training and support to parents of children from birth to five years of age with developmental disabilities. This Program was delivered through regular home visits. It helped families and prevented children coming into care. The Program was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards. Some local funding supplemented the related costs.

A provincial council provided an effective forum for the discussion of ideas.

ADULT RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

The primary objective in providing residential services for adults with mental or physical disabilities was to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the least restrictive setting possible in each case. Sixty-nine group homes located in 34 communities accommodated 448 adults who were mentally retarded. Fifty-two physically disabled adults resided in six group homes.

Approved private-service homes provided the degree of care appropriate to meet individual client needs. During the year, 259 homes accommodated 701 persons across Saskatchewan. The Division also funded a program which provided respite for home operators, enabling them to arrange for relief staff for reasons of annual or emergency leave.

The Supportive Living Program provided the necessary support services to enable adults with mild mental retardation to reside in their own homes or apartments. There was a total of 144 spaces available within 19 Saskatchewan communities.

Houston Heights, Regina, received a grant to provide attendant care services to 18 individuals.

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICES

Phase II of the Community Living Plan proceeded and residents of Valley View Centre relocated to communities throughout Saskatchewan.

As of March 31, 1989 there were 639 residents at Valley View Centre.

RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS FOR CHILDREN

Residential placements for children were used only as a last resort. There were spaces available in foster homes, group homes, and small hospital locations.

The Small Hospitals Program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and was jointly administered by the Social Services and Health Departments. Persons accommodated by this program primarily required 24-hour skilled nursing care, had parents or guardians willing to maintain a family relationship, and were able to attend a developmental centre educational program where these were available.

ACTIVITY CENTRES

Eighteen locally operated activity centres provided adult day vocational programs for 808 persons with mental retardation and motor or sensory limitations. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization, and recreation so that clients could develop sufficient social competence to function in a community setting.

SHELTERED WORKSHOPS

Twenty-six sheltered workshops provided specialized training opportunities for 1,073 adult clients with fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. This program focused on training and production. Clients developed work and social skills so they were able either to reach their potential level of independence or obtain competitive employment. A portion of the profit realized by workshops was returned to clients.

Sheltered workshops funding was cost-shared with the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement.

ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

As part of the Community Living Plan, a number of new day activity programs were developed. These programs provided activities which range from full-time, centre-based activities to integration of seniors into existing senior citizens' programs.

CONTRACT SERVICES BRANCH

The management of grants administration to all non-governmental organizations which are mandated, supplementary, or complementary to the Department's services, has been consolidated into the Contract Services Branch. This Branch ensures fiscal accountability and sound organizational management in these organizations.

VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

The province undertook to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program within the framework of the federal-provincial Vocational Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Agreement, for persons with mental or physical disabilities. This involved provisions for assessment, counselling, and restoration services, as well as vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

The provincial coordinator chairs a Training-Selection Committee which meets regularly to review and determine eligibility of potential clients referred by many other agencies. The Department of Education as well as Employment and Immigration Canada are represented on this Committee. Referrals to this Committee are made by provincial government departments and community referral agencies representing the target groups of the program.

A total of 721 applications were approved under the program during the year.

Assessments

Education	19
Psychological (private)	20
Vocational (other)	7
Vocational - Saskatchewan Abilities Council (SAC)	110
Vocational - Wascana Rehabilitation Centre	5
Work assessments	77

Job Readiness Training

Adjustment to blindness training	12
Adult basic education	92
Basic skills training	38
Driver training	8
Life skills course	16
Other	1
Tutoring	19
Vocational training	10
Work Experience S.A.C.	29
Work Preparation S.A.C.	30
Independent Residency Training	1

Post Secondary Training

Business College	9
Correspondence Course	5
Community College: out-of-province	4
Compu-College Saskatchewan	14
Kelsey Institute	16
Northern Institute of Technology	6
Other	21
Saskatchewan Technical Institute	8
University out-of-province	9
University of Regina	27
University of Saskatchewan	57
Wascana Institute	14

Special Services

Interpreter services	8
Mobility and communication equipment	18
Medical restoration	20
Other	12
Renovations	6
Special transportation	2
Special equipment and tools	34

VRDP Training-on-the-Job

Private trades	4
Other	1
Training-on-the-job	16

Breakdown of Disabilities

Hearing impaired	94
Mental retardation	181
Substance abuse	9
Learning disabilities	36
Psychiatric disabilities	67
Visual impairment	52
Mobility disabilities	60
Other physical disabilities	222

Child Day Care

The Child Day Care Branch provided assistance to families who required help in paying for licensed or approved child care. These licensed centres and approved family homes were monitored by the Branch to ensure standards were being met.

During the year under review, there were 297 approved homes providing care to approximately 1,900 children between six weeks and 12 years of age.

Ninety-three centres were licensed for 3,710 spaces with 3,966 children attending. Five hundred fifty-two new child care spaces were under development.

The Branch licensed the Saskatoon Student Child Care Services in September 1988. This was a pilot project in which teen mothers attending Mount Royal Collegiate could use this special infant day care centre.

In order to offset the cost of fees for child care services, an income-tested subsidy of up to $235 per month per child was provided to assist parents who met eligibility requirements. On average, there were 4,200 families receiving $214 per month in 1988-89.

The Child Care Act was introduced.

Income Security

SASKATCHEWAN ASSISTANCE PLAN

The Income Security Division provided basic income support services for individuals and families who for various reasons including unemployment, disability, ill health, or low income could not meet their basic needs.

Under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan, the Division provided funds to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, and clothing, and ensured supplementary health services, to individuals and families who, for various reasons, had insufficient funds to meet basic needs. The Plan was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Persons in need could apply for and receive benefits, as well as related information on client rights and responsibilities, at any of the Department's regional offices.

A number of service-delivery initiatives were introduced during the year under review. In-person cheque pick-up was instituted to increase opportunity for counselling of clients on job search activities. Joint payment of rent cheques, to clients and landlords, was introduced to ensure that rent allowances were used for the intended purpose. The first steps were taken towards service to specific client groups such as single parents, two-parent families, and the disabled.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan (S.A.P.) Financial Cases by Employment Status: March 1989

Employment Status	Cases	% of Total
Employed	3,833	13.7
Unemployed:		
Fully Employable	8,891	31.7
Partially Employable	4,287	15.3
Undergoing Training	2,723	9.7
Unemployable: (includes persons who are temporarily or permanently unemployable)	8,293	29.6
Total	**28,027**	**100.0**

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Expenditures by Source: 1988-89

	Expended	% of Total
Municipal Governments	$ 2,185,426	1
Federal Government	96,247,381	49
Provincial Government	98,412,965	50
Total	**$ 196,845,772**	**100**

Average Monthly Caseload by Case Type: 1988-89

Case Type	Fully Employable	Not Fully Employable	Total
Single person	4,388	10,291	14,679
Childless couple	545	600	1,145
One parent family	5,297	3,549	8,846
Two parent family	2,794	573	3,367
Totals	13,024	15,013	28,037

Employment and Family Income

Saskatchewan Works

The Employment Branch continued administration of the Saskatchewan Works Program during the year, as part of the government's overall job creation strategy.

This Program served as a means of providing productive employment opportunities for persons receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Its purpose was to provide them with work experience and job-related skills, and to facilitate their continuing participation in the work force. Saskatchewan business, local government, and non-profit employers, whose projects were approved under the program, were eligible for subsidies up to the provincial minimum wage with related employee benefits.

To qualify for funding, employers had to demonstrate that: the work created was employment which would not have existed without program support; meaningful work experience and job-related skills would be provided and existing employees' skills would be considered; projects would provide between 20 and 26 weeks of full-time, continuous employment; and projects would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

The Branch operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to administer this program. Clients were referred to employers by Vocational Services Units of the Branch.

During 1988-89, 720 jobs continued from the previous year and with the creation of 1,280 new jobs over 2,150 clients received work experience through the program.

New Careers Corporation

An additional 180 clients were hired under the New Careers Corporation, with the majority carrying out activities as contracted through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture.

Vocational Services

The Employment Branch's Vocational Services Units continued to provide regional referral services to the Saskatchewan Works Program, the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program, and the New Careers Corporation as well as other employment, training, and educational programming.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

In co-operation with the Department of Education, clients were referred to a wide range of classes offered through adult basic education and pre-employment skills development, within the provincial community college and technical institute systems. This was accomplished under the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program.

Approximately 2,400 students participated in one or more classes under this and other basic skills development programs. Of these, approximately 75 percent were enrolled in Adult Basic Education or technical vocational programs. The remaining 25 percent were enrolled in community-based programs such as career planning, employment readiness, and life skills courses across the province.

FAMILY INCOME PLAN

This program provided monthly income supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets. During 1988-89, supplements were provided to 7,363 low-income families benefitting 16,422 children. The average monthly caseload was 5,044. In 1988-89 any Family Income Plan cases that were also receiving Saskatchewan Assistance Plan benefits for more than six months were transferred to the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan.

Internal Support Services

POLICY AND PROGRAM SERVICES

The Policy and Program Services Division provided overall support for the policy and program development functions of the Department including planning, research, program design, and evaluation activities. This Division sought to maximize response to policy direction from government and to help the Department adapt to changing priorities. It promoted clear and consistent policy in all program areas and developed mechanisms for ensuring continuation of effective process. It also ensured program support through provision of information, research and evaluation services, and ensured linkages for resolution of interprogram, interdepartmental, and intergovernmental issues.

The Division was responsible for coordinating the Department's legislative program and activities, as well as providing technical and policy expertise on regulatory changes, Cabinet submissions, and Orders-in-Council. It provided a coordinated approach to legislative development within the Department and enabled it to respond effectively to the need for legislative change.

The Division also represented the interests of Saskatchewan, and more particularly, the Department, in federal-provincial and interprovincial issues and initiatives. This included negotiation and administration of federal-provincial cost sharing agreements, such as the Canada Assistance Plan (CAP), Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons (VRDP), Young Offenders, Criminal Legal Aid, and the Employability Enhancement Accord. Also included were charge-backs to Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for services provided to Treaty Indians. Other areas of responsibility included preparation of briefing materials for the Minister, Deputy Minister, and Assistant Deputy Ministers on federal-provincial and interprovincial issues, participation in federal-provincial working groups, and liaison with other departments and governments on cost sharing matters.

During the year under review, the Division collected $174,421,000 in federal revenue, $159,231,000 for the Department of Social Services and the remainder for other provincial government departments.

The Division worked to maximize the amount of federal revenue to which the province was entitled under the various cost sharing arrangements and for provision of social services to Treaty Indians.

Program and Fiscal Highlights

During the year under review, the Division negotiated a new Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Agreement and 1988-89 funding levels for Canada/Saskatchewan Accord on Employability Enhancement for Social Assistance Recipients. It also reviewed revenue recovery from federal sources across all agreement areas; provided research and coordinated development of new legislation for child care, family services, and adoption programs; conducted a review of departmental policies which impact on families; designed and tested evaluation instruments for major employment program evaluation; developed a new process for approval of foster home applicants; initiated automation of civil legal aid cost sharing; published quarterly statistical reports; completed operational reviews for several programs; researched and developed options to support provincial initiatives in response to the National Strategy on Child Care; and led an interprovincial review of maintenance order enforcement to identify areas for improved cooperation between provinces.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division provided administrative and financial support to the Department.

Financial Services

This Branch controlled and safeguarded public funds by ensuring Department compliance with government policy and generally accepted accounting principles. Automated and manual financial systems were developed, enhanced, and maintained in accounting and program areas. Consultative services were provided to evaluate, revise, and develop financial management controls.

Budget Management

This Branch managed the Department's fiscal planning, forecasting, and controls through preparing the annual budget, monitoring budgetary forecasts, and controlling Department spending as a result of forecasts.

Departmental Services

This Branch managed all properties used by the Department, maintained an inventory of departmentally held assets, managed departmental records, controlled the design and acquisition of forms, and provided services such as mail handling, purchasing, filing systems, and vehicle coordination.

Computer Systems

This Branch coordinated the development of new standards for automation in the Department, and managed the acquisition and installation of microcomputer technology. The Branch managed a province-wide computer network, and finalized plans to acquire a dedicated computer for the Department's major computer systems.

Financial Quality Control

This Branch conducted random audits of the Department's financial assistance programs to ensure standards were being met, participated in comprehensive audits of selected non-governmental organizations, and completed operational audits of specific work units within the Department.

Regional Support

Regional Administration Managers and support staff in the Department's six regions provided administrative and clerical support to the Department's programs.

HUMAN RESOURCES

The Human Resources Branch provided advice and direction to the Department in all areas of human resource management. It provided expertise in the areas of recruitment and selection, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits, personnel policy, and labour relations. It assisted all Divisions and Branches in manpower planning, achieving employment fairness goals, and managing employee evaluation and appraisal processes.

The Branch coordinated staff development plans and activities, administered educational leave and tuition reimbursement programs, and implemented a new staff orientation program.

The Branch continued to provide assistance to the Public Service Commission in collective bargaining with the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union. In addition, it actively participated on interdepartmental committees which addressed governmental needs in the areas of performance management and staff development issues.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

The purpose of the Special Investigations Branch was to investigate abuse of social assistance and to recommend charges for fraud, where appropriate.

The Branch completed 174 investigations and was successful on 54 criminal prosecutions during 1988-89.

Fiscal Statement

Vote 36: Saskatchewan Social Services Expenditure

Program Services	
Administration	$ 7,959,132
Income Security	2,409,872
Regional Operations	23,328,948
Family Services	1,634,968
Child Day Care	1,015,912
Children's Services Institutions	1,707,155
Young Offenders	432,482
Young Offenders Institutions	9,899,862
Community Living Services	2,520,210
Residences for the Mentally Handicapped	
Valley View Centre	17,553,389
Payments to the Saskatchewan Property	
Management Corporation	12,751,546
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties	
Grants to Child Day Care	1,414,048
Grants for Community Services	6,182,790
Grants and Allowances for the Handicapped	15,296,114
Payments to Local Social Service Units	1,536,394
Saskatchewan Works Program	7,973,335
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals	
Allowances for Child Day Care	10,935,014
Children's Services	20,357,131
Payments to the Saskatchewan Legal	
Aid Commission	5,832,500
Saskatchewan Skills Development Program	5,940,821
Income Security	
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	196,845,772
Family Income Plan	10,947,793
Total Social Services Expenditure	**$ 364,475,188**